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CONCERN FOR ATLANTA FAMILIES VOICED

GREENWICH, Conn. -- The pall of fear that hangs over Atlanta youngsters evoked warm expressions of support and concern from members of the Episcopal Church Executive Council.

Meeting at Seabury House here Feb. 25-26, the Council quickly passed a resolution calling for the prayers of the Church, personal expressions of sympathy and support for the 19 families whose children have been murdered or who have disappeared in the last 18 months and support for the Atlanta clergy and civil authorities.

The resolution calls for personal visitation, wherever possible, to the victims' families, a step that is almost unparalleled as an indication of the feelings of the national body. Council members were assured that Atlanta Bishop Bennett Sims and his clergy were actively involved in pastoral ministry with the families.

The Council also threw its weight behind a federal panel to investigate the internment of Japanese-Americans during World War II and prevent similar events in the future.

The panel, authorized by Congress last summer, is required to investigate the circumstances surrounding the 1942 executive orders and the military actions that led to the displacement and detention of thousands of Japanese-American and Aleut citizens and report its findings and recommendations to the president. Council authorized staff officers in Asiamerican ministries, public issues and Washington affairs to assist the inquiry and work with other Churches in the issue.

A resolution re-asserting the Church's opposition to constitutional amendments that would "abridge the right of individuals to reach informed decisions in the matter of abortion" also won quick approval of Council. The action is to be transmitted to federal and state authorities.

Finally, the Council acted on a General Convention call for a churchwide exploration of Christian lifestyles by authorizing the National Hunger Committee to develop and disseminate materials to facilitate such studies next year.

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